What is Occupational Health?

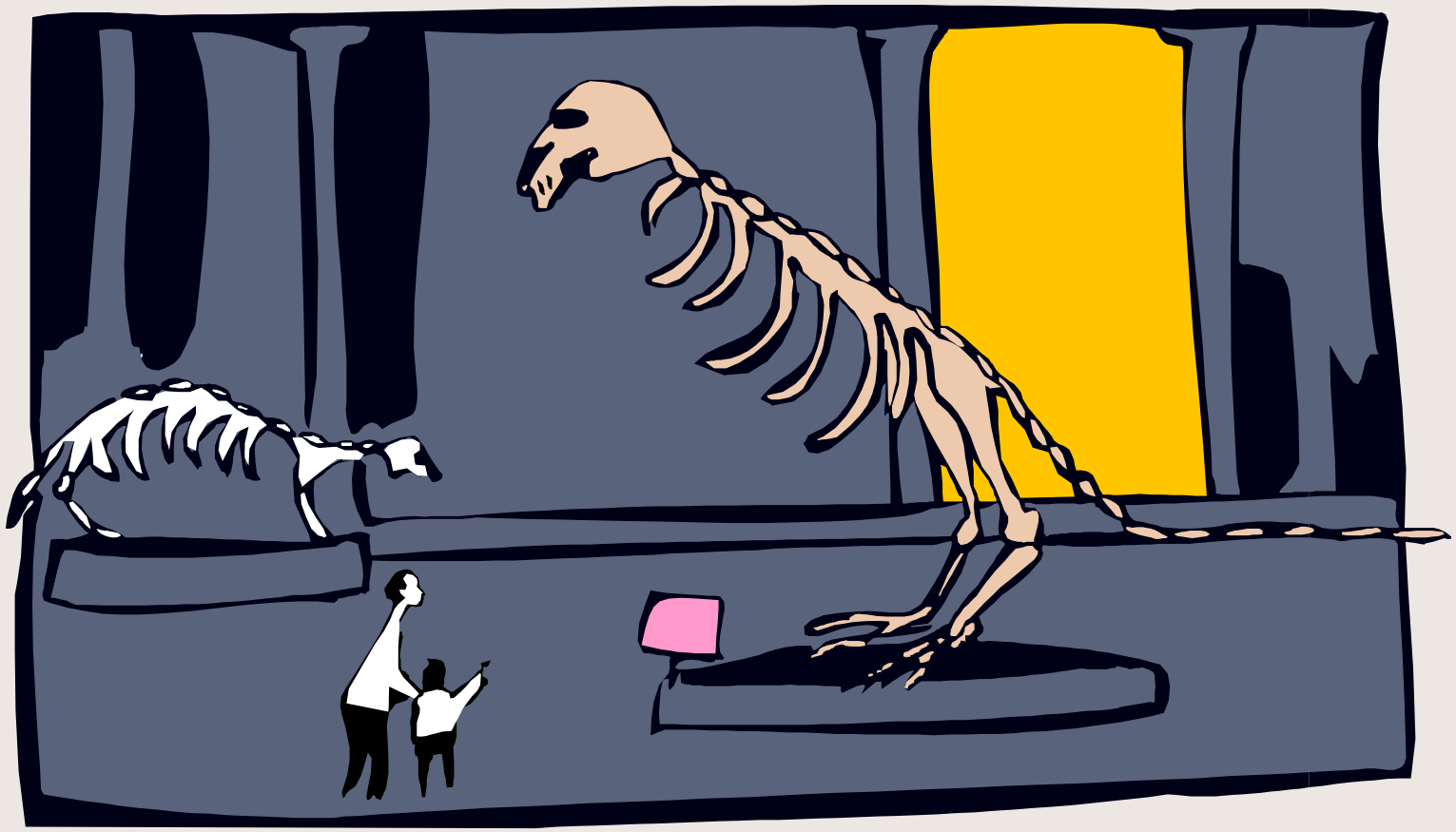
NH Charleston

Denise M. Mullins, RN, COHN

Occupational Health Nurse Supervisor Specialist

Occupational Medicine Division Officer

History…



Well…….

- Hippocrates noted lead toxicity in mining
- Romans recognized dangers of working with zinc and sulfur
- 1473 – pamphlet written about occupational diseases and protective hygiene measures such as ventilating mines

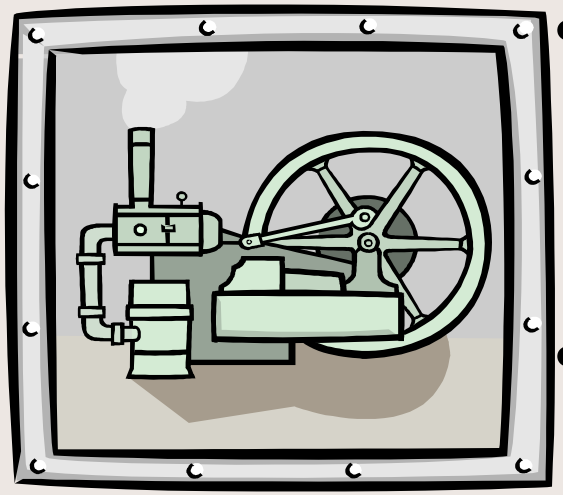
- INFORMATION EXCERPTED FROM AAOHN PPP 2003

18th Century…

- Bernardino Ramazzini, “father of occupational medicine”, described the pathogenesis of silicosis
- Occupational hazards identified:
  - Lead in the cider industry
  - Soot in chimney sweeping
  - Mercury in millinery –
    - “Mad as a hatter”

- INFORMATION EXCERPTED FROM AAOHN PPP 2003

19th Century



- First occupational health nurses
  - Ada Mayo Stewart – USA
  - Phillipa Flowerday - UK
- 1833 – English Factory Acts
  - First legislation concerned with compensation versus controlling the cause of illness/injury

- INFORMATION EXCERPTED FROM AAOHN PPP 2003

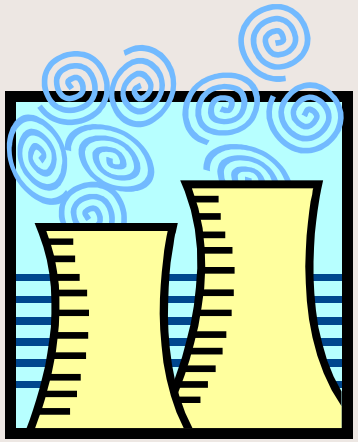
20th Century

- Alice Hamilton developed principles of toxicology related to occupational health
- 1911 – first state compensation laws
- 1913 – first Industrial Hygiene programs established
- 1933 – Federal employee health service established
- 1942 – American Association of Industrial Health Nurses founded – forerunner of AAOHN

- INFORMATION EXCERPTED FROM AAOHN PPP 2003

20th Century

- Post WWII – Atomic Energy Act and Mine Safety Acts
- 1970 – Occupational Safety & Health Act
- 1971 – Certification in Occupational Health Nursing begins
- 2000 – over 35,000 registered nurses working in occupational health



- INFORMATION EXCERPTED FROM AAOHN PPP 2003

“Every worker has the right to the fulfillment of his spiritual and material needs, while at the same time enjoying freedom from fear of trauma and disease.”

Goals of the International Labor Organization & World Health Organization

“to assure so far as possible every working man and woman in our nation safe and healthful conditions and to preserve our human resources.”

Occupational Safety & Health Act

Ok…well…

- What does Occupational Health do for you and your Command?

Here are some of the OH services

Consults	Training & Education	Surveillance	Statistics
Analysis of Trends/Patterns	Injury/Illness care	Case Management	Workers Compensation
Medical Record Review	Return to work evaluations	Restriction evaluation	Worksite/center inspections
Medical Certificates	Hazard/exposure assessment	Employee advocate	Health screening
Risk assessment	Regulatory compliance	Program oversight	Health promotion
Disease prevention	Safety procedures	Ergonomics	Toxicology

How do I contact the Occupational Health?

Mrs. Denise M. Mullins, RN, COHN

Occupational Health Nurse Supervisor

OFFICE HOURS 0745-1615 MONDAY-FRIDAY

Office: (843) 743-7525 DSN 563

Fax: (843) 743-7233 DSN 563

dmmullins@charleston.med.navy.mil

Naval Hospital Charleston

3600 Rivers Avenue

N. Charleston, SC 29405-7769